

Public Law 98-410
98th Congress

Joint Resolution

Recognizing the important contributions of the arts to a complete education.

Aug. 29, 1984

[H.J. Res. 452]

Whereas historically the arts have provided societies with a truly human means of expression that goes well beyond ordinary language;

Whereas the arts serve as a powerful expression of thoughts and feelings, as a means to challenge and extend the human experience, and as a distinctive way of understanding human beings and nature;

Whereas few areas of life are as important to a free, democratic society as education;

Whereas a country in which pluralism and individual expression are an essential part of its character must rely on a high level of shared education to foster a common culture;

Whereas public discussion following recent studies of education in America indicates an increasing desire to strengthen our Nation's schools;

Whereas the arts provide an important aspect of a complete education and have been included as one of the six basic academic subjects by the college board;

Whereas practice and preparation in the arts can develop discipline, concentration, and self-confidence;

Whereas participation in the arts helps to develop the higher levels of skill, literacy, and training essential to enable individuals to participate fully in our national life;

Whereas exposure to the arts is an integral part of the understanding and appreciation of the diverse cultures of the world;

Whereas the arts serve to preserve our uniquely American culture and provide a particularly effective means to present it to other nations; and

Whereas the arts enrich our lives by offering fulfillment through self-expression and aesthetic appreciation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That we recognize the important contribution of the arts to a complete education and urge all citizens to support efforts which strengthen artistic training and appreciation within our Nation's schools.

Approved August 29, 1984.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 452:

HOUSE REPORT No. 98-844 (Comm. on Education and Labor).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 130 (1984):

June 18, considered and passed House.

Aug. 10, considered and passed Senate.